

Letter to D. J.

Jan - July 1871

See also correspondence with

Prof. L. S. Lurie in the

"Political Economy" Jde. 1914-15

April 22nd, 1915

Professor Cairns,
United Free College,
Aberdeen.

My dear Cairns:

I have not time to write a letter to you as I should very much like to do. I am simply sending a business communication. We have a vacancy in Political Economy in the University of Toronto, and I have been told that in Aberdeen there is a good man, named, R.V. MacIver, who might suit us. He is lecturer in Political Science and Sociology in the University. Can you give me any information about him, both as regards his teaching qualities and his character? Is he a leader among his fellows and capable of becoming head of a department in a short time? Any information you give will of course be entirely confidential.

I suppose that you are all full of sorrow for the present war. Everybody is now being touched in a near or more remote way. We have been drilling 1500 men all winter, and now we must have 600 undergraduates either at the front or on the way. Already we have lost some, and recently every week will bring news of others who have fallen.

Hugh Black was preaching for us last Sunday and gave a fine sermon. He was full of the war, and of course found more opportunity of expression here than in the United States, although their sympathy apart from the German element is very strong with us. I hope that it may be over by the autumn.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 1st, 1915

My dear Cairns:

Your very careful letter has been of great value to me and I feel that we shall be safe in offering a position to MacIver. The other inquiries which I have made together with the unanimous opinions from Professors Curtis, Arthur Thompson and Baillie reinforce so strongly what I had heard from Seth and others that it seems to me we shall be fortunate if we can get MacIver. Undoubtedly the position here will be a good one, the influence of it in the future depending upon the quality of the man himself.

To-day I am presiding at a Conference of the Universities of the Dominion which I have called to meet here. A new spirit has gone through the country, and our endeavour is to unify higher educational efforts in the Dominion, if possible. We have about twenty representatives of the different Universities and Colleges.

How waves of feeling rise and fall. I infer from the papers that last year Britain was greatly depressed, but is coming up again this week, though these Zeppelin raids on London are bad things. The Germans seem to me to have become utterly ferocious and savage. It looks as though the United States would be drawn in very soon, though whether it will be more than active sympathy with the Allies may perhaps be doubtful. There is a diversity of opinion here as to whether on the whole it would be an advantage to have the United States definitely in the war.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Professor D. S. Cairns,
62 Hamilton Place,
Aberdeen.

President.

June 18th, 1915

My dear Cairns:

We are badly in need of a good man for German. Seeing that you were so kind in helping me with regard to MacIver, whom I hope we shall get before long, I venture to turn to you also for help as to both English and German. There are two Associate Professorships vacant, each of them worth \$2500 a year. We want a man in each who is a good teacher and who would also be able to lead in graduate work. What about your man in Aberdeen, Dr. Lees? Is he a good man, and do you think he would be moveable?

Excuse this short note. With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Professor P. S. Cairns,

62 Hamilton Place,

Aberdeen.

July 7th, 1915

Professor D. S. Cairns,
62 Hamilton Place,
Aberdeen.

My dear Cairns:

Just a line to tell you that we have appointed MacIver as Associate Professor of Political Economy. We are greatly indebted to you for what you have done in enabling us to get him. I believe that we are to be congratulated in getting him, and I think also that he will find that he is coming to a good place.

I am sending you a little book that I have just published. It is a record of work that we have been doing during the past winter. I am just off for my holiday. With kind regards,

I am, Yours sincerely,

President.